

Glossary of Terms

A

accreted - To make larger or greater, as by increased growth.

acumen - A tapering point.

adipose fin - A soft boneless fin.

agouti (grizzled) - The alternation of light and dark bands of color in the fur of various animals, producing a grizzled appearance.

alates - Bearing wings.

allele - One member of a pair or series of genes that occupy a specific position on a specific chromosome.

allopatry - Occurring in separate, nonoverlapping geographic areas. Often used of populations of related organisms unable to crossbreed because of geographic separation.

allotypic - A biological specimen that is the opposite sex of a holotype.

amphidromous - Moving from fresh water to the sea, or vice versa, for nonreproductive purposes such as feeding.

amphipod - A small crustacean of the order Amphipoda, such as the beach flea, having laterally compressed body with no carapace.

anadromous - Migrating up rivers from the sea to breed in fresh water.

anal fin - An unpaired fin on the ventral surface of the fish, virtually always positioned after the vent.

angulate - Having angles or an angular shape.

anterior - Placed before or in front.

anthropogenic - Caused by humans.

apodeme - One of the processes of the shell which project inwards and unite with one another, in the thorax of many Crustacea.

appendage - A part or organ, such as an arm, leg, tail, or fin, that is joined to the axis or trunk of a body.

aquaculture - The science, art, and business of cultivating marine or freshwater food fish or shellfish, such as oysters, clams, salmon, and trout, under controlled conditions.

arboreal - Relating to or resembling a tree.

ascidian - Any of various sedentary tunicates of the class Ascidiacea, having a transparent sac-shaped body with two siphons.

auricular - Of or relating to the sense of hearing or the organs of hearing.

B

ballast - Heavy material that is placed in the hold of a ship or the gondola of a balloon to enhance stability.

barbel - One of the slender, whiskerlike tactile organs extending from the head of certain fishes, such as catfishes. Also called barb.

basal band - Of, relating to, located at, or forming a base.

basicaudal - On the base of the caudal fin (tail fin).

beak - The raised part of the dorsal margin of the shell; also called the umbo.

beak cavity - The depression or pocket on the inside of each valve leading into the beak.

benthic - Of or relating to or happening on the bottom under a body of water.

benthopelagic - Of or relating to or happening on the bottom under a body of water specifically open oceans or seas rather than waters adjacent to land or inland waters.

biangular - Having two angles or corners.

bib - A patch of colored feathers under the chin of a bird.

bioaccumulation - The accumulation of a substance (as a pesticide) in a living organism.

biomass - The total mass of all living things within a given area, biotic community, species population, or habitat; a measure of total biotic productivity.

biome - A major regional or global biotic community, such as a grassland or desert, characterized chiefly by the dominant forms of plant life and the prevailing climate.

bipectinate - Having two margins toothed like a comb.

biserrate - Serrated on both sides.

bivalve - A mollusk, such as an oyster or a clam, that has a shell consisting of two hinged valves.

book lung - A sacculate respiratory organ found in some arachnids, such as scorpions and spiders, consisting of several parallel membranous folds arranged like the pages in a book.

boreal - Of or relating to the forest areas of the northern North Temperate Zone, dominated by coniferous trees such as spruce, fir, and pine.

brackish - Having a somewhat salty taste, especially from containing a mixture of seawater and fresh water.

bromeliad - Any of various mostly epiphytic tropical American plants of the family Bromeliaceae, usually having long stiff leaves, colorful flowers, and showy bracts. Bromeliads include the pineapple, the Spanish moss, and numerous ornamentals.

brood parasitism - (Also called nest parasitism or breeding parasitism.) The laying of eggs by one bird species in the nest of another bird species and the subsequent brooding of the egg and raising of the young by the parasitized host, usually to the detriment of the host's young. Brood parasitism. (Also called nest parasitism or breeding parasitism.) The laying of eggs by one bird species in the nest of another bird species and the

- subsequent brooding of the egg and raising of the young by the parasitized host, usually to the detriment of the host's young.
- bryozoan - Any of various small aquatic animals of the phylum Bryozoa that reproduce by budding and form mosslike or branching colonies permanently attached to stones or seaweed.
- burrow - A hole or tunnel dug in the ground by a small animal for habitation or refuge.
- bycatch - The portion of a fishing catch that is discarded as unwanted or commercially unusable.
- byssal - A mass of strong, silky filaments by which certain bivalve mollusks, such as mussels, attach themselves to rocks and other fixed surfaces.
- C
- calcareous - Composed of, containing, or characteristic of calcium carbonate, calcium, or limestone; chalky.
- carapace - A hard bony or chitinous outer covering, such as the fused dorsal plates of a turtle or the portion of the exoskeleton covering the head and thorax of a crustacean.
- cardiform - Small, sharp, slender teeth; arranged like a series of combs.
- cardiomyopathy (enlargement of the heart muscle) - A disease or disorder of the heart muscle, especially of unknown or obscure cause.
- carnivore - Any animal that feeds on flesh.
- carpus - A joint in quadrupeds corresponding to the wrist.
- carrion - Dead and decaying flesh.
- catadromous - Living in fresh water but migrating to marine waters to breed.
- caudal - Of, at, or near the tail or hind parts; posterior
- caudal fin - The tail of fishes and some other aquatic vertebrates.
- caudal spot - A spot or blotch of color contrasting with the base color and located on or near the base of the caudal or tail fin of a fish.
- cercus - Either of a pair of terminal, dorsolateral sensory appendages of certain insects, such as the female mosquito.
- chela - A pincerlike claw of a crustacean or arachnid, such as a lobster, crab, or scorpion.
- chelate - Having chelae or resembling a chela.
- chelicerae - Either of the first pair of fanglike appendages near the mouth of an arachnid, such as a spider, often modified for grasping and piercing.
- cheliped - One or more pairs of thoracic legs of decapod crustaceans that terminate in a chela, or claw. The entire cheliped is often referred to as a claw.
- chlordan - A colorless, odorless, viscous liquid used as an insecticide. It may be toxic to humans and wildlife as a result of its effect on the nervous system.

chlorosis - The yellowing or bleaching of plant tissues due to the loss of chlorophyll or failure of chlorophyll synthesis. It can be caused by insufficient light or nutrients, and also by certain diseases.

cladoceran - Any of various small, mostly freshwater crustaceans of the order Cladocera, which includes the water fleas.

cnidarians - Any of various invertebrate animals of the phylum Cnidaria, characterized by a radially symmetrical body with a saclike internal cavity, and including the jellyfishes, hydras, sea anemones, and corals. Also called coelenterate.

concave - Curving inward.

congener - An organism belonging to the same taxonomic genus as another organism.

conspecific - Of or belonging to the same species.

continental shelf - A submerged border of a continent that slopes gradually and extends to a point of steeper descent to the ocean bottom.

copepod - Any of numerous minute marine and freshwater crustaceans of the subclass Copepoda, having an elongated body and a forked tail.

costa - A rib or a riblike part, such as the midrib of a leaf or a thickened anterior vein or margin of an insect's wing.

creel - A daily possession or bag limit for the recreational take of fishes.

creel limit - Number and sizes of fish that can be legally harvested during a particular time period.

crown - The top of the head.

crustacean - Any of various predominantly aquatic arthropods of the class Crustacea, including lobsters, crabs, shrimps, and barnacles, characteristically having a segmented body, a chitinous exoskeleton, and paired, jointed limbs.

ctenoid - Having marginal projections that resemble the teeth of a comb.

cultch (material) - A natural bed for oysters, consisting of gravel or crushed shells to which the oyster spawn may adhere.

cycloid scales - A fish scale which is thin and shows concentric lines of growth, without serrations on the margin.

D

decapod - A crustacean of the order Decapoda, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp, characteristically having ten legs, each joined to a segment of the thorax.

demography - The study of the characteristics of populations, such as size, growth, density, distribution, and vital statistics.

desiccation - To dry out thoroughly.

detrital - Loose fragments or grains that have been worn away from rock.

detritivore - An organism that feeds on dead organic and fecal matter.

detritus - Loose matter resulting from the wearing away or disintegration of a tissue or substance.

diapause - A period during which growth or development is suspended and physiological activity is diminished, as in certain insects in response to adverse environmental conditions.

diatoms - Any of various microscopic one-celled or colonial algae of the class Bacillariophyceae, having cell walls of silica consisting of two interlocking symmetrical valves.

diel - A 24-hour period, usually encompassing 1 day and 1 night.

Dieldrin - A chlorinated hydrocarbon, $C_{12}H_8Cl_6O$, used as an insecticide.

dimorphic - Existing or occurring in two distinct forms; exhibiting dimorphism.

dioxin - Any of several carcinogenic or teratogenic heterocyclic hydrocarbons that occur as impurities in petroleum-derived herbicides.

disking - A mechanical method of scarifying the soil to reduce competing vegetation and to prepare a site to be seeded or planted.

distensible - That can be distended (To swell out or expand from or as if from internal pressure.)

diurnal - Occurring or active during the daytime rather than at night.

dorsal - Of, toward, on, in, or near the back or upper surface of an organ, part, or organism.

dorsal fin - The main fin located on the back of fishes and certain marine mammals.

drainage basin - The geographical area draining into a river or reservoir.

E

echinoderm - Any of numerous radially symmetrical marine invertebrates of the phylum Echinodermata, which includes the starfishes, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers, having an internal calcareous skeleton and often covered with spines.

ecoregion - An area defined by environmental conditions and natural features; a region defined by its ecology.

ecotone - A transitional zone between two communities containing the characteristic species of each.

ectocommensal - A commensal organism that lives on the outer body surface of another organism.

eddy - A current, as of water or air, moving contrary to the direction of the main current, especially in a circular motion.

effort - A record of effort in units of time (i.e. days or hours) for which a particular gear (i.e. hook and line or various nets) is used to capture fishes or other aquatic species.

elongate - Long in proportion to width.

elvers - An eel in its transparent, postlarval stage. Also called glass eels.

elytra - Either of the leathery or chitinous forewings of a beetle or a related insect, serving to encase the thin, membranous hind wings used in flight. Also called wing case.

endemic - Native to or confined to a certain region.

endopod - The medial or interior ramus of a crustacean appendage. In the Isopoda, another name for a thoracic appendage (exclusive of the coxa and basis), although more typically applied to inner ramus of a pleopod or a uropod.

epibenthic - Located at the surface of the sediments on the bay bottom, generally referring to algae.

epifauna - Animals that live on the sediment but do not burrow into it.

epimeron - In insects: The lateral piece behind the episternum.

epiphytic - A plant, such as a tropical orchid or a staghorn fern, that grows on another plant upon which it depends for mechanical support but not for nutrients.

epizootic - Affecting a large number of animals at the same time within a particular region or geographic area.

estuary - The wide part of a river where it nears the sea; fresh and salt water mix.

etiology - The study of causes or origins.

euryhaline - Capable of tolerating a wide range of salt water concentrations.

eurythermal - Adaptable to a wide range of temperatures.

eutrophication - Having waters rich in mineral and organic nutrients that promote a proliferation of plant life, especially algae, which reduces the dissolved oxygen content and often causes the extinction of other organisms.

exarate - To plow up; also, to engrave; to write.

extirpate - To destroy totally; exterminate.

exuviae - The cast-off skins or coverings of various organisms, such as the shells of crabs or the external coverings of the larvae and nymphs of insects.

F

facet - One of the lenslike visual units of a compound eye, as of an insect.

falcate - Curved and tapering to a point; sickle-shaped.

fathom - A unit of length equal to 6 feet (1.83 meters), used principally in the measurement and specification of marine depths.

flagella - A long, threadlike appendage, especially a whiplike extension of certain cells or unicellular organisms that functions as an organ of locomotion.

flange - A protruding rim, edge, rib, or collar, as on a wheel or a pipe shaft, used to strengthen an object, hold it in place, or attach it to another object.

flock - A collection of small, loosely held masses or aggregates of fine particles, resembling a tuft of wool and suspended in or precipitated from a solution.

forbs - A broad-leaved herb other than a grass, especially one growing in a field, prairie, or meadow.

fratricide - The killing of one's brother or sister.

frenum - A membranous fold of skin or mucous membrane that supports or restricts the movement of a part or organ.

freshet - A stream of fresh water that empties into a body of salt water.

frons - The anterior, uppermost part of the head of an insect.

fry - Small fish, especially young, recently hatched fish.

fusiform - Tapering at each end; spindle-shaped.

G

gaster - The portion of the abdomen behind the petiole in ants and other hymenopterous insects.

gastropods - Any of various mollusks of the class Gastropoda, such as the snail, slug, cowrie, or limpet, characteristically having a single, usually coiled shell or no shell at all, a ventral muscular foot for locomotion, and eyes and feelers located on a distinct head.

genotype - The genetic makeup, as distinguished from the physical appearance, of an organism or a group of organisms.

gill rakers - Generally stout projections extending from the gills (or better gill arches that support the gills) of fishes that are used to filter appropriate food items while allowing most inedible items to pass out of a fish's operculum or gill-cover.

glass eel - An eel in its transparent, postlarval stage. Also called an elver.

glochidia - The parasitic larva of certain freshwater mussels of the family Unionidae, having hooks for attaching to the gills or other external parts of a host fish.

gonopodium - A modified portion of the anal fin (fin on the lower abdomen posterior to the vent) in males of fishes in the live-bearer family (Poeciliidae) that functions as an organ that transports sperm during internal fertilization or copulation.

gorgonian - Any of various corals of the order Gorgonacea, having a flexible, often branching skeleton of horny material.

granivore - Feeding on grain and seeds.

granulation - 1. Small, fleshy, beadlike protuberances, consisting of outgrowths of new capillaries, on the surface of a wound that is healing. Also called granulation tissue.
2. The formation of these protuberances.

gular pouch - a pouch of bare skin between the lower mandibles (bottom bill parts), seen in such birds as the Brown Pelican. The word "gular" means "pertaining to the throat," and arises from the same Latin word as "gullet."

H

hammock island - Vegetated islands of 0.05 to 404.5 hectares (0.125 to 999.9 acres) in size that are surrounded by tidal wetlands and that are located inland of barrier islands. These uplands are generally not inundated by tide waters and frequently lie within large expanses of tidal-impacted marshland, called 'marsh islands,' that are bordered by tidal waterways.

hard bottom - Also called 'live bottom,' this includes areas of consolidated sediments, rock or other hard substrates that are usually quickly encrusted by living, stationary animals and algae. Such areas frequently have relief or vertical extension into the water

column greater than that of surrounding unconsolidated sand, shell, mud or mixed 'soft' bottoms.

heavy metal - A metal with a specific gravity greater than about 5.0, especially one that is poisonous, such as lead or mercury.

hemispherical - A half of a sphere bounded by a great circle.

hemolymph - The blood analogue used by all arthropods and most mollusks that have an open circulatory system. In these animals there is no distinction between blood and interstitial fluid. The liquid fills all of the interior (hemocoel) of the body and surrounds all cells.

hepatic - Of, relating to, or resembling the liver.

herbivore - An animal that feeds chiefly on plants.

hermaphroditic - Of animal or plant; having both male female reproductive organs

heterogeneity - The quality or state of being heterogeneous. (Consisting of dissimilar elements or parts; not homogeneous.)

holometabolous - Having complete metamorphosis.

holotype - The single specimen or illustration designated as the type for naming a species or subspecies or used as the basis for naming a species or subspecies when no type has been selected. Also called type.

hood (prothoracic covering of the head) - An expanded part, crest, or marking on or near the head of an animal.

hydroid - Any of numerous characteristically colonial hydrozoan coelenterates having a polyp rather than a medusoid form as the dominant stage of the life cycle.

I

imperilment - To put into peril.

impoundment - A body of water, such as a reservoir, made by impounding.

indicator species - An organism whose presence or state of health is used to identify a specific type of biotic community or as a measure of ecological conditions or changes occurring in the environment.

indigenous - Originating and living or occurring naturally in an area or environment.

infauna - Aquatic animals that live in the substrate of a body of water, especially in a soft sea bottom.

infaunal - Organisms that live within the sediment.

inflorescence - 1. A characteristic arrangement of flowers on a stem. 2. A flower cluster.

infraorder - Scientific classification or biological classification refers to how biologists group and categorize extinct and living species of organisms.

instar - A stage of an insect or other arthropod between molts.

interorbital - Situated or extending between the orbits of the eyes.

intertidal - Of or being the region between the high tide mark and the low tide mark.

introgression - Infiltration of the genes of one species into the gene pool of another through repeated backcrossing of an interspecific hybrid with one of its parents.

invertebrate - An animal, such as an insect or mollusk, that lacks a backbone or spinal column.

irruptive migrant - Migrations that are not seasonally or geographically predictable, irruptions may occur in one year but not again for many years. Distances and numbers of individuals involved are less predictable than for partial or complete migrants.

isochronal spawning - To release and fertilize eggs at the same time or interval.

isopod - Any of numerous crustaceans of the order Isopoda, characterized by a flattened body bearing seven pairs of legs and including the sow bugs and gribbles.

isotope - One of two or more atoms having the same atomic number but different mass numbers.

K

karyotypic - Studying the raw genetic information.

keel - A structure, such as the breastbone of a bird, that resembles a ship's keel in function or shape.

keystone species - A species that plays a pivotal role in an ecosystem and upon which a large part of the community depends.

kype - Hooked jaw acquired by trout and salmon, especially at spawning time; it is comprised of cartilage.

L

lacustrine - Living or growing in or along the edges of lakes.

larva - The newly hatched, earliest stage of any of various animals that undergo metamorphosis, differing markedly in form and appearance from the adult.

lentic - Of or relating to or living in still waters (as lakes or ponds).

leptocephalus - One of the small, flat, transparent larvae of eels and certain other fishes, characterized by a long, narrow head.

littoral - A coastal region; a shore.

littoral zone - The region of the shore of a lake or sea or ocean.

live bottom - See hard bottom.

longline - A heavy fishing line usually several miles long and having a series of baited hooks.

lore - The space between the eye and the base of the bill of a bird or between the eye and nostril of a snake.

lotic - Of or relating to or living in actively moving water.

lunule - A small crescent-shaped structure or marking.

M

malacological - The branch of zoology that deals with mollusks.

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malar stripe - Area at the sides of the chin. Synonym(s): whisker, mustache, malar streak.

mangrove - A tropical tree or shrub bearing fruit that germinates while still on the tree and having numerous prop roots that eventually form an impenetrable mass and are important in land building.

mast - The nuts of forest trees accumulated on the ground.

maxilliped - One of the three pairs of crustacean head appendages located just posterior to the maxillae and used in feeding.

medus - The tentacled, usually bell-shaped, free-swimming sexual stage in the life cycle of a coelenterate, such as a jellyfish.

Megalops (megalopal stage) - A larva, in a stage following the zo["e]a, in the development of most crabs. In this stage the legs and abdominal appendages have appeared, the abdomen is relatively long, and the eyes are large.

melanistic (black) - Dark coloration of the skin, hair, fur, or feathers because of a high concentration of melanin.

melanophore - A pigment cell that contains melanin, especially as found in the skin of amphibians and reptiles.

merus - The proximal segment of the hind limb; the thigh.

mesial - Of, in, near, or toward the middle.

mesic - Of, characterized by, or adapted to a moderately moist habitat.

mesohaline - A zone of estuaries or tidal waterways where salinity (ocean-derived salt content of the water) ranges 5 ‰ (or ppt = parts per thousand) to 18 ‰.

mesonota - The upper surface covering the middle segment of the thorax of insects.

mesoscutellum - The visible triangular piece of the mesonotum between the bases of the elytra.

mesoscutum - The scutum or dorsal plate of the middle thoracic segment of an insect.

mesotrophic - Refers to a region with moderate concentrations of nutrients and moderate biological productivity (compare eutrophic and oligotrophic).

metamorphose - To change into a wholly different form or appearance; transform.

metanota - The dorsal plate of the last (third) segment of the thorax.

microhabitat - The microenvironment in which an organism lives.

mollusk - Any of numerous chiefly marine invertebrates of the phylum Mollusca, typically having a soft unsegmented body, a mantle, and a protective calcareous shell and including the edible shellfish and the snails.

molt - To shed periodically part or all of a coat or an outer covering, such as feathers, cuticle, or skin, which is then replaced by a new growth.

montane - Of, growing in, or inhabiting mountain areas.

morphology - The form and structure of an organism or one of its parts.

morphotype - Morphologically distinguishable portions of populations of a single taxon.

motile - Moving or having the power to move spontaneously.

mottled - To mark with spots or blotches of different shades or colors.

musk – 1. A greasy secretion with a powerful odor, produced in a glandular sac beneath the skin of the abdomen of the male musk deer and used in the manufacture of perfumes.
2. A similar secretion produced by certain other animals, such as the otter or civet.

N

nail - The button-like formation at the end of the mandibles is called the "nail" and is hard, much like a human fingernail.

nape - The back of the neck.

neap tides - The lowest tides of the lunar month, which occur in the second and fourth quarters of the moon.

nektonic - The collection of marine and freshwater organisms that can swim freely and are generally independent of currents, ranging in size from microscopic organisms to whales.

nest parasitism - See brood parasitism.

nocturnal - Most active at night.

nodus - A circumscribed mass of tissue; a node.

nonpoint - Not found or located at a single, definable point, as pollution whose source cannot be ascertained.

nonpoint source pollution - Pollutants detected in a concentrated water source such as a stream, river or lake, that come from a wide range of sources. These pollutants come from sources the common person has control over.

nota - The dorsal part of the thoracic segment of an insect.

nuptial - Of, relating to, or occurring during the mating season.

O

obligate - Able to exist or survive only in a particular environment or by assuming a particular role.

oblique - Having a slanting or sloping direction, course, or position; inclined.

oblong - Having a somewhat elongated form with approximately parallel sides.

obtuse - Not sharp, pointed, or acute in form; blunt.

ocellus (light sensing organ) - A small simple eye, found in many invertebrates, usually consisting of a few sensory cells and a single lens.

oligohaline - A zone of estuaries or tidal waterways where salinity (ocean-derived salt content of the water) ranges 0.5 ‰ (or ppt = parts per thousand) to 5 ‰.

oligotrophic - Lacking in plant nutrients and having a large amount of dissolved oxygen throughout. Used of a pond or lake.

olivaceous - Olive-green.

omnivore - An animal that feeds on both animal and vegetable substances.

omnivorous - Eating both animal and vegetable foods.

opercle - Any one of the bony plates which support the gill covers of fishes; an opercular bone.

operculum - A lid or flap covering an aperture, such as the gill cover in some fishes or the horny shell cover in snails or other mollusks.

opithosoma - The middle section of the carapace.

organophosphates - Any of several organic compounds containing phosphorus, some of which are used as fertilizers and pesticides.

ornithology - The branch of zoology that deals with the study of birds.

osmoconformer - An invertebrate whose ion concentrations match those in the ocean.

otolith - Any of numerous minute calcareous particles found in the inner ear of certain lower vertebrates and in the statocysts of many invertebrates.

ovate - Shaped like an egg; oval.

overstory - The uppermost layer of foliage that forms a forest canopy.

oviparous - Producing eggs that hatch outside the body.

ovipositor - A tubular structure, usually concealed but sometimes extending outside the abdomen, with which many female insects deposit eggs.

P

palatine - Of or relating to the palate.

palustrine - Of, pertaining to, or living in, a marsh or swamp; marshy.

papillose - Having small nipplelike projections, such as a protuberance on the skin, at the root of a hair or feather, or at the base of a developing tooth.

paramere - One of the symmetrical halves of any one of the radii, or spheromeres, of a radiate animal, as a starfish.

paranota - Lateral expansions of pronotum.

pathogen - An agent that causes disease, especially a living microorganism such as a bacterium or fungus.

pectoral fin - Either of the anterior pair of fins attached to the pectoral girdle of fishes, corresponding to the forelimbs of higher vertebrates.

peduncle - A stalklike structure in invertebrate animals, usually serving as an attachment for a larger part or structure. A stalklike bundle of nerve fibers connecting different parts of the brain.

pelage - The coat of a mammal, consisting of hair, fur, wool, or other soft covering, as distinct from bare skin.

pelagic - Of, relating to, or living in open oceans or seas rather than waters adjacent to land or inland waters.

pelvic fin - Either of a pair of lateral hind fins of fishes, attached to the pelvic girdle and corresponding to the hind limbs of higher vertebrates.

penaeid - A inclusive term referring to shrimps in the family Penaeidae, which includes the commercially and recreationally valuable marine and estuarine shrimps of South Carolina.

peraeopod - One of the thoracic legs of a crustacean.

perched water table - The water table of a relatively small groundwater body lying above the general groundwater body.

phenotype - The observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an organism, as determined by both genetic makeup and environmental influences.

photoreceptor - A nerve ending, cell, or group of cells specialized to sense or receive light.

physiography - The study of physical features of the earth's surface.

phytophagous - Feeding on plants, including shrubs and trees. Used especially of certain insects.

phytoplankton - Minute, free-floating aquatic plants.

pincers - The articulated prehensile claws of certain arthropods, such as the lobster.

piscivorous - Habitually feeding on fish; fish-eating.

plankton - The collection of small or microscopic organisms, including algae and protozoans, that float or drift in great numbers in fresh or salt water, especially at or near the surface, and serve as food for fish and other larger organisms.

planktonic - Of or relating to plankton The collection of small or microscopic organisms, including algae and protozoans, that float or drift in great numbers in fresh or salt water, especially at or near the surface, and serve as food for fish and other larger organisms.

plastron - The ventral part of the shell of a turtle or tortoise.

pleopod - one of the paired abdominal appendages of certain aquatic crustaceans that function primarily for carrying the eggs in females and are usually adapted for swimming.

polychaete worm - Chiefly marine annelids possessing both sexes and having paired appendages (parapodia) bearing bristles.

polychlorinated biphenyl - Any of several compounds that are produced by replacing hydrogen atoms in biphenyl with chlorine, have various industrial applications, and are toxic environmental pollutants which tend to accumulate in animal tissues called also PCB.

polyhaline - A zone of estuaries or tidal waterways where salinity (ocean-derived salt content of the water) ranges 18 ‰ (or ppt = parts per thousand) to 30 ‰.

polyps - A coelenterate, such as a hydra or coral, having a cylindrical body and an oral opening usually surrounded by tentacles.

polytene - Relating to or having large multistranded chromosomes whose corresponding chromomeres are in contact.

posterior - Located behind a part or toward the rear of a structure.

precocious - Characterized by or characteristic of exceptionally early development or maturity.

prehensile - Adapted for seizing, grasping, or holding, especially by wrapping around an object.

preopercular - Situated in front of the operculum, a lid or flap covering an aperture, such as the gill cover in some fishes or the horny shell cover in snails or other mollusks.

primary - One of the main flight feathers projecting along the outer edge of a bird's wing.

proboscis - The slender, tubular feeding and sucking organ of certain invertebrates, such as insects, worms, and mollusks.

pronotum - The dorsal plate of the prothorax in insects.

propodus - Second part from the distal end of a leg or maxilliped. In a cheliped the propodus consists of a palmar portion and a narrower, immovable finger

prosoma - The anterior or cephalic portion of the body of certain invertebrates, such as arachnids, in which segmentation is not evident.

protogyny - A state in hermaphroditic systems characterized by the development of female reproductive organs, or maturation of their gametes, before the appearance of the corresponding male product, thus insuring against self-fertilization.

pterostigma - A thickened opaque spot on the wings of certain insects.

punctate - Having tiny spots, points, or depressions.

pupae - The nonfeeding stage between the larva and adult in the metamorphosis of holometabolous insects, during which the larva typically undergoes complete transformation within a protective cocoon or hardened case.

R

raptorial - Subsisting by seizing prey; predatory.

recruitment - The influx of new members into a population by reproduction or immigration.

relict - 1. An organism or species of an earlier time surviving in an environment that has undergone considerable change. 2. Something that has survived; a remnant.

respiratory lamellae - A thin scale, plate, or layer of bone or tissue, as in the gills of a bivalve mollusk or around the minute vascular canals in bone.

rhizomes - A horizontal, usually underground stem that often sends out roots and shoots from its nodes.

rhomboid - A parallelogram with unequal adjacent sides.

riffle - A rocky shoal or sandbar lying just below the surface of a waterway.

riparian - Of, on, or relating to the banks of a natural course of water.

riverine - Located on or inhabiting the banks of a river; riparian.

rostrum - A rostrum (Latin beak) is an anatomical structure resembling a bird's beak, such as part of the carapace of a crustacean. Since the rostrum is typically located about the thorax of an arthropod, it is differentiated from the cauda or tail.

S

sabellid worms - Marine segmented worms (phylum Annelida) in the polychaete class and the family Sabellidae. Sabellid worms build membranous or sand tubes, are sedentary or stationary, and may be called fanworms, feather dusters or Christmas tree worms.

scapular - One of the feathers covering the shoulder of a bird.

scapulets - A secondary mouth fold developed at the base of each of the armlike lobes of the manubrium of many rhizostome medus[ae].

scavenger - An animal, such as a bird or insect, that feeds on dead or decaying matter.

sclerite - A chitinous or calcareous plate, spicule, or similar part of an invertebrate, especially one of the hard outer plates forming part of the exoskeleton of an arthropod.

sclerotized - Hardened by deposition of the protein sclerotin.

scyphomedusae - One of the two subdivisions of the Hydrozoa.

secondary - Of, relating to, or being the shorter flight feathers projecting along the inner edge of a bird's wing.

sessile - Permanently attached or fixed; not free-moving.

seta - A stiff hair, bristle, or bristlelike process or part on an organism.

sexually dimorphic – Physical features such as body size and color differs between the males and females of this species.

sinusoidal - Having a succession of waves or curves.

siphon - A tubular organ, especially of aquatic invertebrates such as squids or clams, by which water is taken in or expelled.

snag - A rough, sharp, or jagged protuberance, as a tree or a part of a tree that protrudes above the surface in a body of water. Also called sawyer.

spatulate - Shaped like a spatula.

spawn - To deposit eggs; produce spawn.

speculum - A bright, often iridescent patch of color on the wings of certain birds, especially ducks.

spermatheca - A receptacle in the reproductive tracts of certain female invertebrates, especially insects, in which spermatozoa are received and stored until needed to fertilize the ova.

spermathecae - A small sac connected with the female reproductive organs of insects and many other invertebrates, serving to receive and retain the spermatozoa.

spermatophore - A capsule or compact mass of spermatozoa extruded by the males of certain invertebrates and primitive vertebrates and directly transferred to the reproductive parts of the female.

spinous - Resembling a spine or thorn.

spinule - A small spine or thorn.

spumaline - A sticky, frothy substance used by adult moths as an adhesive to attach eggs to bark or twigs.

squamous - Covered with or formed of scales; scaly.

stemmata - A small, circular, simple eye present in various insect larvae.

subimago - A stage in the development of certain insects, such as the May flies, intermediate between the pupa and imago. In this stage, the insect is able to fly, but subsequently sheds a skin before becoming mature. Called also pseudimago.

subrhomboidal - Roughly resembling a rhomboid, a parallelogram with unequal adjacent sides (rectangle w/o right angles).

substrata - A layer of rock or soil beneath the surface of the earth; a sedimentary bed.

supercillium - The eyebrow.

supraloral - Situated above the lores; as, the supraloral feathers of a bird.

suture - A seamlike joint or line of articulation, such as the line of dehiscence in a dry fruit or the spiral seam marking the junction of whorls of a gastropod shell.

swash zone - The swash zone is the area of the nearshore that is intermittently covered and uncovered by wave run-up.

symbiotic - A close, prolonged association between two or more different organisms of different species that may, but does not necessarily, benefit each member.

sympatry - The occurrence of organisms in overlapping geographical areas, but without interbreeding.

T

tannic acid - Black or tannic acid rivers and streams have usually clear, tea-colored water that is stained by tannins or fulvic acids that are derived from decaying leaves and other vegetation. Tannic acid or black rivers are generally contained within the Coastal Plain and carry less silt than do the larger, longer rivers that originate in the Piedmont or Mountain ecoregions. Rivers that originate in the Piedmont or farther inland are often called red rivers because of the red or orange color of the water created by high silt loads during high flows.

tarsi - The distal part of the leg of an arthropod, usually divided into segments.

telemetry - The science and technology of automatic measurement and transmission of data by wire, radio, or other means from remote sources, as from space vehicles, to receiving stations for recording and analysis.

telson - The “tail” of the carapace.

teneral - Of, pertaining to, or designating, a condition assumed by the imago of certain Neuroptera, after exclusion from the pupa. In this state the insect is soft, and has not fully attained its mature coloring.

terga - The upper or dorsal surface, especially of a body segment of an insect or other arthropod.

tergite - A sclerite forming one of the constituents of a tergum.

terrestrial - Of or relating to the earth or its inhabitants.

thorax - The second or middle region of the body of an arthropod, between the head and the abdomen, in insects bearing the true legs and wings.

tibia - The fourth division of an insect's leg, between the femur and the tarsi.

tidal bore - A high wave (often dangerous) caused by tidal flow (as by colliding tidal currents or in a narrow estuary).

tide pool - A pool of water remaining after a tide has retreated.

transverse - Lying across the long axis of the body or of a part.

trapezoid - A quadrilateral having two parallel sides.

trawl - A conical fishnet dragged through the water at great depths.

tributary - A stream that flows into a larger stream or other body of water.

trophic - Of or involving the feeding habits or food relationship of different organisms in a food chain.

tubercle - A small rounded projecting part or outgrowth, such as a wartlike excrescence on the roots of some leguminous plants or a knoblike process in the skin or on a bone.

tunicate - Any of various chordate marine animals of the subphylum Tunicata or Urochordata having a cylindrical or globular body enclosed in a tough outer covering and including the sea squirts and salps.

U

ubiquitous - Being or seeming to be everywhere at the same time; omnipresent.

umbo - A knoblike protuberance arising from a surface, as the prominence near the hinge of a bivalve shell or the projection at the scale tip of a seed-bearing cone.

understory - An underlying layer of vegetation, especially the plants that grow beneath a forest's canopy.

V

vent - The excretory opening of the digestive tract in animals such as birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish.

ventral - Relating to or situated on or close to the abdomen; abdominal.

vermiculate - Bearing wavy, wormlike lines.

vertical niche partitioning - An evolved feeding or foraging strategy in whales by which they primarily feed at different depths or vertical distances above the ocean floor to limit competition between species.

vestigial - Occurring or persisting as a rudimentary or degenerate structure.

W

watershed - The region draining into a river, river system, or other body of water.

X

xeric - Of, characterized by, or adapted to an extremely dry habitat.

Z

zooplankton - Animal constituent of plankton; mainly small crustaceans and fish larvae.